

With Cynthia's leadership, the NWHN became one of the first and most prescient critics of the unproven, yet widespread, use of menopause hormone therapy to prevent heart disease in women. In 1990, Cynthia testified at the Food and Drug Administration, persuading the agency not to approve preventive use of the drugs without first requiring the sponsors to provide the same standard of evidence from placebo controlled trials that it had required for all drugs approved for heart disease prevention in men. A year later, she spearheaded the NWHN's successful advocacy to persuade the NIH to fund and launch the largest ever study of the health of older women, the Women's Health Initiative, which enrolled more than 27,000 women in clinical trials of menopause hormone therapy.

In 2002, Cynthia's skepticism about menopause hormone therapy was proven well-founded when the Women's Health Initiative showed that hormone therapy does not prevent heart disease and, in fact, increases the risk of stroke and in some cases, breast cancer. Cynthia and the NWHN educated women about the results of those trials, so that they could make more informed decisions about whether to use menopause hormone therapy. This led to the largest-ever drop in breast cancer rates. In one decade, more than 160,000 women did not get breast cancer because the NWHN helped them avoid exposure to the drugs that would have caused it. In 2012, Cynthia received the Grassroots Activism Award from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in recognition of this lifesaving work.

Cynthia also successfully advocated for the NIH to fund the only multi-ethnic long-term study of the menopause transition in healthy women. The study enrolled more than 3,000 women and has resulted in nearly 500 publications, providing essential information that enables women to understand what is normal in menopause, and how that's different across race and ethnicity.

Starting in 2007, as a co-founder of Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need, a national collaborative initiative that supports quality affordable health care for all, Cynthia helped build the grassroots support that was integral to the successful enactment of the Affordable Care Act, which extended health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of women. The coverage made possible by the Affordable Care Act has provided women with access to lifesaving health care, including no co-pay coverage for preventive care such as cervical cancer screening and contraceptive care. In recent years, Cynthia worked within the Raising Women's Voices collaborative to help defeat multiple attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and has been instrumental in bringing the voices of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people to the national health care debate.

In the reproductive health arena, working in partnership with the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Cynthia and the NWHN created a statement of principles to guide the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives. The statement was signed by over a hundred organizations and has helped keep patient autonomy front and center, protecting patients from coercive practices while expanding access to contraception.

Finally, in addition to being an effective educator of consumers and a persuasive advocate in her attempts to influence government

policy, Cynthia has been an essential ally and partner to policymakers working within the federal government. In 2018, she helped organize a lightning-speed advocacy campaign that in just one week saved the Food and Drug Administration Office of Women's Health from an attempt to defund it and prevent its staff from doing the work the office was established to do.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Cynthia Pearson for her vital contributions to the health of women and girls.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a recent event that generously contributed to and positively impacted the welfare of our community and citizenry here in the 27th Congressional District of New York. I gladly welcomed the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to my hometown of Buffalo, New York for their 84th Convention on April 9–10, 2021.

I recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, women that share the tragedy of having children that died in connection to military service or are missing in action. These Gold Star Mothers strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by working to help veterans, those currently serving in the military, their families, and their communities. I am grateful for their efforts to come together to respect and honor our fallen service members, especially considering the immense hardship they have experienced themselves.

There are many instances in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of service flags being adopted—that precede the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers organization—and I would like to highlight two in particular. In 1917 Ohio veteran and businessman Robert L. Queisser created the Blue Star Service Flag to honor his two sons serving in the First World War and other service members of the U.S. military. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of September 24, 1917 reflects the adoption of this service flag. This flag recognizes those who give so much for liberty and acknowledges that the dearest thing to a father and mother are their children.

Later, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a suggestion by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense that mothers who lost a child in World War I wear a gold star on a traditional black mourning armband. This led to creation of the Gold Star Service Flag, where a gold star was placed inside the flag's blue star, signifying a service member has died.

The Gold Star Service flag adoption was, of course, followed by the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc, an organization that offered its 65 original charter members the opportunity to find strength in fellowship. In 1928, twenty five mothers of American service members lost in World War I met in Washington, D.C. under the leadership of Grace Darling Seibold, the mother of U.S. Army First

Lieutenant George V. Seibold killed in action, to establish the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The organization was officially incorporated on January 5, 1929.

That same year, Congress provided funding for these mothers and widows to travel to cemeteries in Europe to visit their loved ones. In 1930, a group of 231 Gold Star women sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey aboard the passenger liner SS America on the inaugural pilgrimage to the European graves of their sons and husbands who died in World War I. When this program ended three years later, nearly 6,700 Gold Star women had journeyed across the Atlantic to bid a final farewell to loved ones laid to rest in war cemeteries in France, Belgium, and Great Britain.

Congress later granted a federal charter to the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day." Congress also authorized and requested President Franklin D. Roosevelt issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion. Each year on this day, we express the love, sorrow, and reverence of the people of the United States for American Gold Star Mothers.

We especially recognize our American Gold Star Mothers and their fallen soldiers in New York's 27th District. At the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park resides the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *The Sullivan* (DD-537). This National Historic Landmark has been a public memorial and museum ship since 1979, and is sponsored by Alleta Sullivan, a Gold Star Mother whose five sons were killed in action. George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan—brothers from Waterloo, IA—died when their cruiser was sunk at the First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942.

I am glad the Gold Star Mothers recently had the opportunity to gather in Buffalo, New York for the 2021 Convention of the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers. I remain incredibly grateful for and humbled by the Gold Star Mothers' commitment to honoring and reflecting on the legacies of their sons and daughters lost in service to our Nation; finding strength in the fellowship of each other; and helping veterans, current military servicemembers and their families, and our communities.

JAMES TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

James Torres is a 12th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Torres is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Torres for winning the Adams County